SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

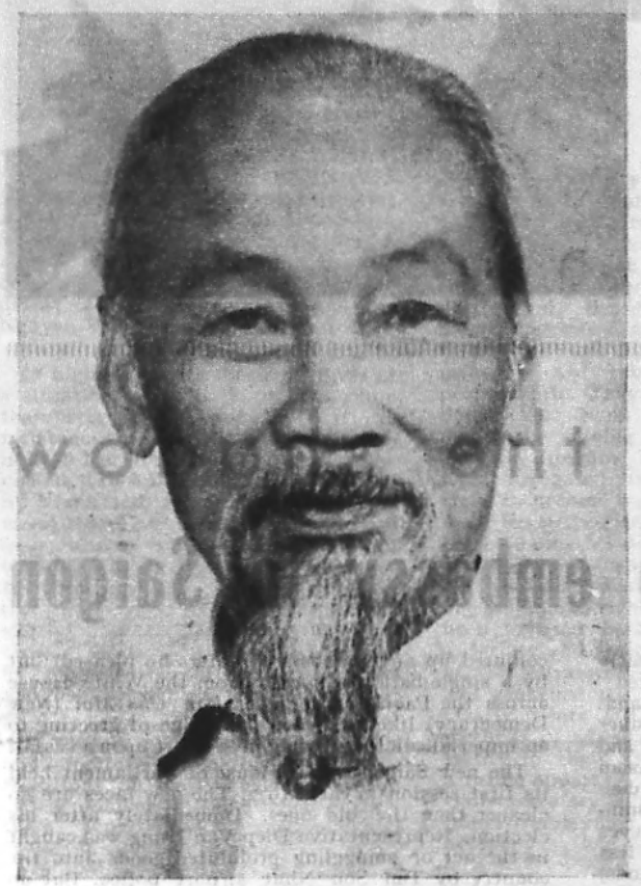
6th Year – *September 4, 1972*

No 163

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

2 - NOV 30 1972
Copy ——



President HO CHI MINH, the founder of the DRVN, will live forever in our memory

Dear compatriots in the North,

THE US imperialists and their henchmen are deliberately partitioning our country, but "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people is one, rivers may dry up and mountains wear away, but this truth is immutable." North and South Viet Nam are all the closer together and bound by greater mutual love in the life-or-death struggle, with the determination to defeat the US aggressors. Turning their thoughts toward heroic North Viet Nam, the people of South Viet Nam express their gratitude for the enormous services rendered by the great rear which has day and night wholeheartedly assisted the front line. The South Viet Nam people voice their admiration for the steel-like firmness of their twenty million kith and kin who have duly punished the US aggressors for their utterly brutal war escalation. With boundless loyalty, South Viet Nam is resolved to keep to their oath "every criminal act taken by the US against the North will meet with ripostes five or ten times harder from the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces." The latter are determined to win greater victories so as to liberate the South, defend the North and advance toward the peaceful reunification of the country.

(Appeal of the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN)

Day and night, our truck convoys keep moving to the front

For our beloved Fatherland

Nguyen Thai Binh, the undaunted overseas Vietnamese student

Beloved overseas Vietnamese,

Together with so many heroes and model fighters, the example set by Nguyen Thai Binh represents the spirit of the indomitable Vietnamese youths. By his dauntless spirit and patriotism, he worthily represents the Vietnamese sons and daughters living abroad who are turning their thoughts toward their beloved fatherland and people now engaged in the great fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Learning from Nguyen Thai Binh's example, now more than ever, let you enhance your solidarity, increase your patriotic activities and contribute your best to the sacred resistance war of the nation against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

(Appeal of the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN)

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

(Continued)

RECENTLY, two special experts of the American Congress came to Saigon and set out on an inspection tour of the provinces. After that they withdrew to USAID headquarters and spent two months assessing the data collected. Finally they came out with a quite candid admission: "The President's Vietnamization policy is impracticable, and pacification has reaped but scanty and nominal results. In one single night the Vietcong could upset everything!" The two experts' report caused deep repercussions on Capitol Hill in Washington. Later, the two men were identified as CIA collaborators.

4 — THE LAM SON THEATRICAL COMPANY

THE topmost task of the proconsul Bunker and of MACV, USAID and the CIA in Saigon is to promote a "model democracy" there.

The "Second Republic," made in the USA, should have its typical representatives. So let us go to Lam Son square which faces Le Loi boulevard, and attend a session of the Saigon "Lower House of Parliament." The building is still called by its old name of Municipal Theatre and the Lower House has received the popular nickname of "159-member Theatrical Company."

Indeed many sessions of the House can stand comparison with the most hectic scenes ever acted on the stage, with plenty of "suspense" worthy of the most breath-holding gangster films or crazy whodunits. The worst abuse keeps streaming from one parliamentarian to another. Here are a few specimens recorded by shorthand during a session held in April 1970:

"Shut up or I'll break your jaw!"

"Embezzlement and incompetence are limited to no one individual. Those who denounce others as dung-eaters are swallowing things that are even dirtier."

"Go home, Mr Speaker, and wash your wife's panties rather than stay here and rave!"

However there are things that shorthand records can never adequately describe. On one occasion, one woman parliamentarian rolled up the legs of her silk trousers and, picking up one of her stiletto-heeled shoes, brought it down smack on the head of a male colleague some twenty years older. On another, a representative whipped out a pistol and a grenade, which he unpinned and threatened to hurl at his opponent: all his colleagues were seized with understandable panic and quickly made themselves scared.

The Saigonese people have all heard about their "representative" Tran Kim Thoa, who championed "equality between the sexes." When called to account by her colleague Ho Huu Tuong about the pocketing of 5 out of the 25 million piastres entrusted to her for the printing of documents for a conference of the Asian Parliamentary Union in Saigon, she choked with anger and spat out between clenched teeth: "I'll tear you scoundrel to pieces and check up your bits with salt and pepper for seasoning." To the House in uproar she explained: "I'll knock him dead. He is even dirtier than I ever was!"

Saigon democracy, the handiwork of the magician Bunker, also shines abroad. One day in early 1971, Dr Nguyen Quang Luyen, who "represented" Gia Dinh province, went on a mission to Thailand. He held quite important functions: deputy Speaker of the Saigon Lower House of Parliament and Chairman of the Viet Nam branch of the Asian Parliamentary Union. Yet, at Bangkok airport, customs officers of that "friendly country" determinedly seized his suitcase and opened it. Their eyes goggled out of their heads: it contained no less than fifteen kilograms (more than thirty pounds) of illegal gold. So, he was whisked off to a police station in spite of his twofold immunity — diplomatic and parliamentarian!

Another case: Representative Phan Chi Thien was a priest turned politician. Completely disregarding his dignified demeanour, the police searched his bag and found four kilograms (more than eight pounds) of heroin worth tens of thousands of dollars. Caught red-handed, he tried to get away with it by declaring that it was a business undertaking whose returns were to go to a presidential candidate's electoral fund — so after all it was no dirty drug-smuggling but a political act. This did not prevent the police from carting him off to prison.

Innumerable parliamentarian "missions" have been carried out in the same way. Saigon "representatives" went to South Korea, Taiwan, Paris, Rome, etc., nominally for "State affairs" but in fact for fruitful deals in gold, diamonds, heroin or pornographic materials.

Some of the House sessions are rather gloomy affairs. They perfunctorily deal with "the people's life." Not many representatives attend. Their number is even surpassed by that of the "public" looking on from the upper gallery: police, plainclothes men, secret agents, and American "friends," most of them political advisers to the American embassy and journalists.

The jolliest and most important session ever held was that during which it was decided to increase the parliamentarians' allowances to more than a million piastres a year apiece, so that freed from material cares they could wholeheartedly devote themselves to working for the welfare of the people! Following the one-man election of Thieu in late 1971, the relationship between the legislative and executive powers in Saigon has displayed even more histrionics likely to provide entertainment to the Saigonese. For instance, the Saigonese "senators" were unable to stomach Thieu's one-man race and voted to cancel his election. For his part, Nixon didn't bother to wait for the Saigon "Supreme Court" to decide on the issue, and immediately sent a telegram of congratulation to his flunkey. The Saigon press wrote that Thieu was not elected by the "5,700,000 ballots cast by 94.34 per cent of the electorate" as boasted by official propaganda organs (after all the magician Bunker could have conjured up any numbers of voters he pleased) but by a single ballot sent over from the White House across the Pacific! The paper *Dan Chu Moi* (New Democracy) likened Nixon's message of greeting to an imperial edict bestowing investiture upon a vassal.

The new Saigon Lower House of Parliament held its first session in early 1972. The new faces are no cleaner than the old ones. Immediately after his election, Representative Diep Van Hung was caught in the act of smuggling prohibited goods into the country by Tan Son Nhut airport police. But no one any longer paid any attention to such trifles which had become routine business. The new thing that happened with the Lam Son Theatrical Company was the heightened tension between the socalled "opposition" and the valets of the regime. New scophants replaced Tran thi Kim Thoa and her ilk in the unending task of "expressing gratitude to our great ally the USA".

In the eyes of the Saigon people, both the Saigon Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament are but cheap gewgaws for a new kind of "democracy": one-man rule, Thieu's rule!

Relations between the legislative and executive powers in the Saigon regime are not in the hands of the Speaker, old Nguyen Ba Luong formerly, Old Nguyen Ba Can at present.

They are the preserve of Nguyen Cao Thang, a former druggist who has become political assistant to "President" Thieu and is considered to be in charge of the President's secret funds, stuffed with American greenbacks. Political observers in Saigon hold that in major votings the parliamentarians always keep an eye on the ballot box and the other on Mr Thang's billfold. None other than Nguyen Cao Thang himself has admitted that Law 10-70 was passed at the cost of 15 million piastres in "gifts" to Messrs Representatives. The rewards were brought to the homes of the co-operative voters in fat envelopes accompanied by a letter of thanks from the Presidential Assistant, signing for the President.

But money is not the only string linking the legislative to the executive powers in the Saigon regime. Beware, Messrs Representatives of the "Opposition"! Remember the fates of such oppositionists as Truong Dinh Zu and Au Truong Thanh. The former is still in prison. The latter after a few months in police custody was forced into self-exile abroad. Each time they look out into the Lam Som square, the "oppositionists" cannot help feeling uneasy. A monumental sculpture featuring gun-toting "Republican Combatants" with their weapons trained on the Parliament building reminds them that the ony law prevailing in their "Republic" is that of the jungle!

(to be coutinued)

THANH NAM

With confidence and force

THE SOUTH FIGHTS ON

THE appeal of the NFL Central Committee and the RSVN PRG issued in the glow of a fruitful autumn, has instilled in the South Vietnamese people and armed forces a new strength and confidence and determination to fight on until the defeat of the US aggressors and the Nguyen Van Thieu gang of traitors.

It highlighted the basic features of a situation which is more favourable than ever to the anti-US patriotic resistance of the Vietnamese nation in both the North and the South. The vicious "re-Americanization" devised by Nixon and the use of US air and naval forces at an unprecedented level as a decisive strategic force has not been able to prevent a more serious US predicament and heavy reverses. Our posture is characterized by a steady advance and successful offensives. The enemy position is plagued by passiveness, increasing setbacks and displays signs of total failure.

It warmly commended our people's and fighters' upholding of heroic traditions of the August Revolution and September 2 Independence Day, their superhuman exertions and tremendous achievements.

It contained searing indictment of the monstrous crimes perpetrated by the Nixon administration and the Nguyen Van Thieu rule against our people, as they are in direst straits.

The appeal reflected the deep aspirations of our people for independence, freedom, peace and happiness. It calls for sincere unity for the sake of national interests, face to our ruthless enemies — the US aggressors and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique of fascists.

The appeal resounded as a clarion call urging our Southern people and fighters to follow up their gains.

"Vietnamization of the war" — a product of the "Nixon doctrine" at a time when the US aggressors were soundly battered — is now facing complete fiasco. Nixon, on the eve of the presidential elections, is racked by the pangs of a "Viet Nam agony." In his race to the White House, he is weighed down by a crushing burden — the Viet Nam war which throws him off balance. He wants to get rid of it, but it sticks on to him even more tenaciously. Bombs are poured on Viet Nam dykes and water conservancy works, but it is the White House which is threatened by floods. Bombs are falling on Vietnamese innocent citizens, but they have also ignited widespread universal anger in the US and the world. The higher Nixon escalates, the more isolated he finds himself amidst mounting storms.

Hoping against hope, Nixon is still trying to keep his lackey Nguyen Van Thieu in office, carring on "Vietnamization" to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type US colony. The traitor Nguyen Van Thieu has been shameless enough to entreat his American patron to continue the exterminating bombing so that he can survive at the price of death and destruction. Meanwhile in the US-Saigon-controlled areas, forced draft is stepped up and new economic measures are taken to bleed the people white. They want to transform South Viet Nam into a market for manpower serving their "Vietnamization" program. The US and Thieu have arrogated to themselves the right to become butchers and to enact laws permitting massacres and lootings, stifling all democratic liberties, repressing all aspirations for peace, independence, neutrality, and slighting all human rights. Thieu has thus been exposed in his true colours as a fascist and traitor but also in his utmost estrangement from the masses and weakened posture. As the appeal clearly points out, "These atrocious methods of administration in no way testify to their strength. It is such a ruling apparatus that the US imperialists are trying to impose upon our fellow-countrymen. It will never be accepted by any Vietnamese."

In such circumstances, the NFL and PRG earnestly call on all South Vietnamese, regardless of religious creeds, political parties or leanings and social origins, town and countryside alike, living in South Viet Nam or in foreign countries, provided they have Vietnamese blood in their veins, to stand up and join in the national effort, to drive out the Yanks and topple Nguyen Van Thieu, oppose the war of aggression and the brutal fascist regime, and put an end to the people's ordeals. It is now the *raison d'être* of every genuine Vietnamese still desirous to live in independence, freedom and happiness. Our national history has given ample proof of the monolithic unity of the whole people in face of danger to preserve the survival of the nation.

At present, in their last-ditch attempt, the enemy is turning our beloved, ever-green and luxuriant land into a desert, a heap of ruins, with a poisoned ecology and its incalculable consequences, by means of genocide, biocide and ecocide. South Viet Nam is also being transformed by Nguyen Van Thieu into a huge "tiger-cage" and a big brothel; human dignity, cultural traditions and the nation's fine ethics are debased. Our people's blood is being swapped for stinking US dollars. The name of Nguyen Van Thieu is associated with war, fascism, the source of all sufferings of our people. In South Viet Nam, no area is free from devastation, no village, no streets, no family is spared death and devastation. Parents are severed from their children, wives from their husbands, the number of orphans, widows, sick men is staggeringly high. All this is inherent in the Nguyen Van Thieu-headed regime, tool of US imperialism. Is there any patriotic Vietnamese who is not shocked by this state of things? As this national calamity is increasingly realized by everyone, the true Vietnamese are setting aside their differences of opinion, even their grudge against each other, to unite into a great family in a spirit of national concord and mutual understanding common to all Vietnamese born and bred in this land of Viet Nam, with its 4,000 years of glorious history.

"The red silk hood covers the mirror," a popular lullaby goes.

The policy of the RSVN PRG is permeated with this sense of solidarity. The Motherland is ready to welcome with open arms all sons and daughters of Viet Nam, back into a national-unity bloc spearheaded against the enemy, to chase out the Yanks and depose Thieu, and set up a government of broad national concord, representative of the deepest aspirations of our people for independence, peace, freedom, happiness. That is the line of the NFL Political Program, and the gist of the 7-point solution and two-point elaboration of the RSVN PRG. The appeal reaffirmed confidence in our people's great unity, that is the tradition of our nation, and added:

"Our people and our land have undergone a quarter-century of resistance to foreign invasion; the US aggressors and the traitors their agents have been resorting to insidious tricks to sow dissession and mutual hatred among our people. Therefore all Vietnamese should enhance their patriotism and foster mutual affection and confidence, and work for the cause of the nation. They should unite and kick out the Americans, overthrow Nguyen Van Thieu and heal all wounds of the country. With the consistent policy of national concord of the NFL and PRG, the Vietnamese people will certainly carry the day."

Addressing our Northern kindred, the appeal expressed deep gratitude towards the North which has made immense sacrifices for the South'— blood of Viet Nam's blood, flesh of Viet Nam's flesh — and reaffirmed: "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one." The land of Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese people. So long as any part of Viet Nam's sky, sea or land is still occupied, any Vietnamese has the right to go there to fight the aggressors.

The appeal reiterated this solemn pledge: "For each US blow at the North, the South will return five or ten." The South Vietnamese people and armed forces are resolved to fight harder to liberate the South, protect the North and achieve eventual peaceful reunification of the country."

History has reserved to our people the unique glory of defeating the US aggressors and their henchmen. Our people and armed forces in the South, aware of this privilege, pledge themselves to fight on, millions as one, until total victory over the Yanks and their valets.

South Viet Nam Liberation fighters in pursuit of the enemy on the Quang Tri front

SAIGON and the pages of her glorious history

"THE city named after the glorious Ho Chi Minh." This line in a poem by To Huu always revives in my mind the picture of my home town, a busy harbour alive with shipping and with labourers sweating day and night for a subsistence. And that Saigon, toward the end of 1911, saw a young man go abroad. That young man went by the name of Nguyen Tat Thanh, alias Ba (later he became venerated Uncle Ho). He left his country, sailing on the French S/S "l'Amiral Latouche Tréville," his heart burning with the desire to find a way to free his countrymen from the French colonialist yoke.

Was it not the great ideal of the great patriot and revolutionary Nguyen Ai Quoc that inspired rebellious Saigon in later years?

Saigon also witnessed, in the days when the country was still plunged in the dark night of colonialism, the birth of the first working-class organization—"The Red Union"—whose founder was a young worker, Ton Duc Thang. This event has gone down in the history of the Vietnamese working class as one of the first sparks of revolution.

In the spring of 1930, Saigon became a nerve centre of the vanguard political party—the Indochinese Communist Party—and remained so for a very long period afterwards. On January 21, 1931, a year after that historic event, large numbers of peasants from Phu Xuan, a suburban village, together with oil workers from Nha Be, staged a huge meeting in commemoration of three leaders of the international working class—Lenin, Karl Liebknecht, and Rosa Luxemburg. They were protected by self-defence forces.

On February 9, 1931, the whole city was set agog by the heroic deed of a young man, Ly Tu Trong by name, who, in broad daylight, shot dead Legrand, a notorious plain-clothes man. Later, in prison, "Trong Con" (little Trong) remained a staunch revolutionary. For the young generations of Viet Nam, he has always been a shining example.

AT the peak of the nation-wide insurrection, Saigon, on August 25, 1945, rose up to wrest back power from the Japanese and French invaders. Ex-slaves filled their lungs with the air of independence and freedom that pervaded the city long groaning under the rule of the enemy. In the sky, the flags of revolution and the emblem of the new city—a red field with a gold hammer and sickle or five-point star—flaunted proudly, beckoning, urging.

The revolutionary regime was hardly a month old when Saigon was forced to take up arms to fight another aggression. It was in Saigon that the first shots were fired, raising the curtain over the resistance against the French reconquest of Nam Bo (Cochinchina-*Ed*). In the thick of street fighting, a living torch was lit. It roused the people to surge

ahead, wave after wave, to fight the invaders. That living torch, which will shine eternally, was a little boy, Le Van Tam by name, who doused his clothes with petrol, set fire to himself, and rushed into the ammo-oil complex of the enemy at Thi Nghe. It was in December, 1945.

With pride, Saigonese will tell you of the daring punitive actions of Miss Nguyen Thi Lan, alias Me Linh, in the early part of 1946. This 16-year-old student, in broad daylight and right in front of the busy Ben Thanh market, shot dead a notorious traitor, Hien Si, who ran the reactionary paper "Phuc Hung." Even when surrounded by police, she acted with complete calmness. In the most natural manner, she replaced the pistol in her hand-bag, to the great admiration of onlookers and even her arresters.

Alongside the many suicide squads and task force units there were the 13 unforgetable home-guard units in various precincts, industrial enterprises, and administrative offices. One of the deeds of these home-guards was the execution of Imfeld in 1947. Vo Hong Tam. a barber-turned partisan, put the enemy agent to death by means of a razor at the Hotel des Nations. Imfeld was a French colonel then operating in Indochina, and his death greatly alarmed the colonialists and produced a stir among the public at home and abroad.

The merger of the 10 task force and self-defence units into a main force regiment, which was named after Pham Hong Thai, a well-known patriot, and the formation of an all-women outfit named after Minh Khai, another revolutionary, as an acknowledgement of the contribution of women, was a very bold decision given the fact that Saigon was then still under enemy control. This, however, had a great effect on the rapid growth of the armed forces of the city and on the forming and development of the military apparatus later, like the setting up of the Saigon – Cholon Military Command, the Saigon—Cholon Special Zone, the 950th Suicide Battalion, etc.

In co-ordination with the other sections of the population, Saigon workers staged many strikes against sacking and for higher pay. These actions came in a close succession, had a wide range of intensity, and set off the vanguard role of the most revolutionary class.

Also in the history of Saigon, the bloodied demonstration of students on January 9, 1950 and the 500,000-strong funeral of student Tran Van On three days later gave the people in the whole country and the public abroad a great emotion and a deep impression of that indomitable city.

70 days after this resounding student event, over three hundred thousand Saigonese came out against US imperialism, which was showing the flag. It was the March 19 anti-US demonstration, the first of its kind in Saigon. It was led by a much respected patriot, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, under the slogan: "No US aid to France to prolong the Indochinese war!"

Ever since, January 9 and March 19 have become the pride of the entire Vietnamese people, and are observed each year respectively as "National Day of Students" and "Day of Nation-wide Struggle Against US Imperialism."

THE US imperialists have paid special attention to the building of Saigon (now including Cholon and Gia Dinh with a population of over 3 million) into the capital of the "Republic of Viet Nam." Politically speaking, Saigon is the nerve centre of the US imperialists and their henchmen, with the US Embassy, high-level American advisory offices, government offices, huge military bases, a complex of military posts, and a great armed force which accounts for nearly 40 percent of the strength of the Saigon army. A military harbour has been built, and the airbases at Vung Tau, Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa now rank among the biggest strategic airbases of the US in Southeast Asia. For the defence of Saigon, the US imperialists have set up a line running through Vung Tau, Phu My, Bien Hoa, Xuan Loc, Tan Uyen, Binh Duong, Ben Cat, Phuoc Vinh, Cu Chi, Duc Hoa, Ben Luc and Can Giuoc to Go Cong. Economically, Saigon is flooded with surplus goods from the US and countries in the US camp. The life of the people is a very hard one, and unemployment is a constant threat to the labouring people. As far as cultural life is concerned, Saigon is poisoned by the US and Western-imported decadent mode of life...

This notwithstanding, Saigon, in the effort to free herself from the horrible grip of the enemy of revolution since the 1954 Geneva Conference, has always held high the banner of revolution, and lived up to her eponym Ho Chi Minh.

Through the intellectual movement for peace and national reunification, and the innumerable strikes, meetings and demonstrations of workers and people of other social sections against the US-Diem rule since 1954 and especially in the period beginning with the coming into being of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the people of Saigon have gone through many years of great hardship, difficulty and sacrifice. But the gains they have made are tremendous and magnificient, a faithful expression of their ardent patriotism and boundless loyalty to the cause of national liberation and salvation.

After the emergence of the South Viet Nam NFL, Saigon like the rest of South Viet Nam in the stirring days of concerted uprisings, advanced steadily with a yet higher mettle, fighting the enemy on both the political and military planes. The two first-class "Brass Wall" Orders conferred by the NFL Committee on Saigon-Gia Dinh are an acknowledgement of the worthy contribution of Saigonese to the common victory of the heroic South Vietnamese people over the US aggressors.

THE 1968 Spring general offensives and widespread uprisings have gone down in the history of the nation, and Saigon in this Spring of high deeds, when countless numbers of her sons and daughters — many known and many unknown — valiantly confronted the US-Thieu clique, will live for ever in the memory of future generations.

It is the memory of misery-afflicted mothers who, after all those long years waiting for the liberation forces, ran up to the first line, under a hail of murderous bullets, to give their "sons" the cakes they had made themselves. It is the memory of those Saigonese "Gavroches" who shuttled from trench to trench with messages for liberation fighters. It is the memory of that all-women self-defence squad which held out for many days against a much superior enemy force in front of the headquarters of the Joint Command of the Saigon army. It is the memory of that wounded fighter on the tarmac at the Tan Son Nhut airport whose posture embodied to perfection the immortal Vietnamese posture. It is the memory of the revolt of national-minded Saigon soldiers, who opened up in time against US aggressors and die-hards. Novelist Nguyen Sang, who went with the Liberation Forces on many incursions into Saigon, has said: "Not until the gun fire had started in the streets of Saigon could I know how much the inhabitants of this city had done for the revolution."

Well-known sculptor Diep Minh Chau, author of a group representing Uncle Ho and three children from North, Central and South Viet Nam of the first days of the 9-year war against the French colonialists in Nam Bo, once said this about his future creation: "The day when the country is completely liberated. I will set up a monument for Uncle Ho in Saigon. His statue, dominating the city, will beckon the whole world to visit this heroic land of Viet Nam, whose people have shed their blood for Independence and Freedom and for the dignity of mankind."

And I fervently wish for that not distant day of liberation when I can see the statue of the Founding Father of the Nation over my city and to see him thus live for ever in space and time.

August 1972

TRAN VINH SA

A wakeful night

ON one night's special leave I returned home after three straight years in the regular army.

The next morning I was to rejoin my mates cross and the "Indochina Highway" heavily guarded by the enemy.

Not the slightest stir in my house. Not a soul either. I stepped on the threshold, looked through the bamboo blind and shivered: on the altar in the middle of the central room there was a photograph of mine, as big as an exercise book, in a wooden frame. Incense was burning in front of the photograph which seemed to sneer at me... In the Loc Ninh battle our company's intendant, who bore the same name as I, was killed. As for me, I was injured and sent to hospital.

I pushed aside the blind and walked in. I saw a knapsack on a plank bed, the kind of knapsack used by militants in contested areas. May be it's my wife's, I said to myself. But when did she take up a resistance job? And did she really? Her timidity was well known throughout the village. Looking up I found an American-made belt hung on a pillar, and two grenades fastened to it. The belt, I recognized, was the one I had left behind. But the grenades? Had my wife become a guerilla?

Nobody was as white-livered as she. She would shut her eyes at the sight of anyone cutting the throat of a chicken. Though born and bred in marshy lands, she feared water-rats and snakes. What pained me the most was her fright of the enemy. Whenever aware of an incursion, even though adverse troops were half a day's walk away, she would fly into her secret underground shelter.

What had made my wife change so thoroughly? I thought with indescribable emotion that it was the desire to avenge her husband killed in action, who had dedicated his life to the salvation of the fatherland.

Perplex to the utmost, I went out into the garden, and was astonished to find my wife washing her hair in the backyard. The noise of my steps made her turn round. I called to her softly. She fell senseless to the ground, near the bottom of a shaddock tree. I picked her up, reproaching myself with unprepared apparition.

LYING together in bed that night, none of us uttered a word for quite a time, so strong being the impact of our unexpected reunion.

Two gun reports tore the silence of night. A guerillas' warning of danger? I felt on the tenterhooks. We were so cosy in our bed.

The reports sounded like knocks at the door of our house which stood alone in an open field. My wife sat up. Did she do so out of fear? Apparently not. Did she want to go out? Maybe. I was wondering whether I should hold her back when she took my hands and looked me in the face. She said:

"I've to go there. No tough fighting at all out there. A group of our fellow-villagers who are hiding on the knoll may have some difficulties. The concentration zone of Cai Lay has just been destroyed. You're tired, you stay behind and have a rest. Don't be angry, darling, will you?"

I did not say a word. She kissed me on the cheek and leaped from the bed.

There a click when she clasped on the American-made belt, half-opened the door and then I heard her splashing off.

I had the feeling that the bed I was lying in and the house itself were bobbing on the water. Something greater had diverted my wife's attention from me. I jumped to my feet, picked up my rifle and went out.

In the distance people were walking to and fro on the knoll. Babies cried, grown-ups coughed, someone unlocked his rifle. A bullet exploded in the neighbourhood sending water into the air. I gingerly made my way toward a bush and witnessed the usual animated scene of contested areas.

A betel-chewing woman spoke loudly:

"Nam, why don't you stay home with your man? He'll leave you."

"I don't mind if you fellow-villagers won't. Without a weapon you dared destroy enemy garrisons, why shouldn't I come and give you a hand?"

"I bet you'll steal home after ten minutes or so."

With a laugh, my wife retorted:

"Let's make a bet, granny. If I lose you'll get a bunch of areca-nuts."

There upon, I slipped and had a fall.

"Who's there?"

"Me," I said.

"Oh, you!"

People laughed loudly.

"Give me the nuts. I've won. Either you go to him or he comes to you, it's all one."

I scraped the mud off my feet and stepped forward to greet everybody. My wife stood nearby, smiling, a US tommy-gun slung over her shoulder.

"Nam is the daughter-in-law of all the families here, not only yours," the betel-chewing woman told me. "Don't take her away from us."

"I wouldn't dare..."

"All right! You're a reasonable young man," she went on, "She's an elite fighter, don't you know that? You should not underrate her."

Village militia head Sau, a middle-aged man, rushed in. My wife knit her brows. Without paying attention to anyone, he said:

"Enemy intelligence agents are operating on the opposite riverside. Our guerillas are standing by. Here are my orders: You, Nam and your husband, go down to the truncated *tram bau* tree and act as look-outs there. Don't fire without an order. One of you will crawl here to report me if anything unusual happens..."

So saying, Uncle Sau seized my hand and my wife's, and dragged us to the appointed place where a coverless, 80-centimetre-wide underground had been dug. He winked at me, sympathetically, and said:

"Down here you can perform your duty while having a heart-to-heart chat. Mind not to talk too loudly."

NAM frowned at him and leaped down first.

Shoulder to shoulder, we stood upright in that narrow dug-out full of muddy water. She exhibited a more extrovert joy than at home. From a distance, a 12.7 mm gun traced a red trajectory in front of us. I glanced sideways at her; she was smiling, showing her white teeth which then looked rosy. Clouds drifted away, interminably. Without the comfort of a room, without the pleasure of a garden, but standing in muddy water behind two submachineguns, under twinkling stars, we spent the happiest moments together since wedding-day.

Nam looked younger than ever before.

"So you're an elite fighter?" I asked with pride.

She turned toward me, then leaned her elbows on the edge of the underground, gazing at something in the distance. She spoke softly, each of her words sounded as though from the night of months and years.

"After you left with main-force units, they submitted our village to savage, unending raids. I had to spend most of my time in secret shelters. The very day of your departure, guerillas mounted a big engagement on this knoll, near our father's white grave over there. A bullet fell close to my trench, damaging the top. Hardly had I got out when some girl friends of mine came and told me to join in bringing food to our fighters. Adverse guns roared like rice-mills at work while firebombs exploded around me. After the apportioning of rice I slipped away to the knoll's foot, where we're standing now. Then somebody — Uncle Sau precisely — dragged me back, saying in an angry voice and with a scowl:

'Nam, where are you going? Don't you remember what this plot of land has been given your family by revolution? I went to the maquis with a rifle when you were still a suckling now a grey-haired man, I continue to fight day and night against them as best as I can. Why a girl of a revolutionary land, should you hide all the times in trenches?'

Nobody had ever scolded me as Uncle Sau did. His words fierced through my heart though I didn't burst into tears.

That very evening I visited father's grave, dressed our guerillas' wounds, and helped to carry ammunition supplies. Day in day out I got used to doing resistance jobs. Elders of the village also encouraged me. Then a letter from mother's brother said that you had been killed in action. I had no heart to live on. On second thought I decided I should shoulder father's and your share of responsibility. The day I visited father's grave with a bundle of joss-sticks I ran into Uncle Sau. He bellowed:

'Nam, you should remember that our family is not the only one to give its share of blood.'

As though I was unaware of that.

Don't you know that mourning your father and husband, in his capacity as the village militia commander he went on pointing a finger to my forehead, you've failed to perform your guerilla's duty for three days running.'

Not even waiting for an excuse from me, he took hold of the joss sticks, lit them and divided them into eight or nine portions each of which he planted on a guerilla's grave.

I resented his bullying me all the time.

The next day, the enemy made an incursion into Nhut hamlet. I volunteered to march in the van. When the raiders reach the brook, I hurled a grenade at them: all of them took to their heels. It failed however to explode because I didn't take off the safety pin. Uncle Sau threw an angry look at me. Not waiting for a word from him, I picked up the grenade and said:

'That was to frighten them away. If anyone among them venture to come nearer, I'll bash in his head with my rifle butt. They'll see what stuff an August Revolution girl is made of.'

'Really? No boasting?', the uncle asked.

I stood upright with arms akimbo, staring back at him. My next fight was more successful."

Thereupon my wife burst laughing, burying her face in my shoulder. The smell of her hair was mixed with that of muddy water and the flagrance of shaddock blossoms nearby the large mound spread in front of us, pockmarked with battle wounds.

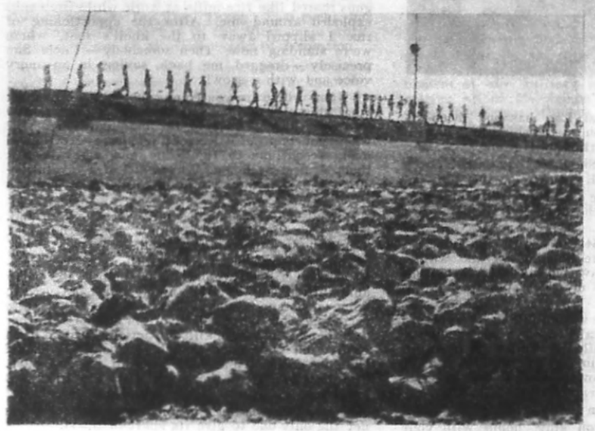
DAY had already set in we did know when. I took her into my arms. My happiness then was different from that I felt the evening before as I was coming home to her.

PHAM HOI

On the occasion of the 27th Independence Day

EVERYTHING FOR THE FRONT

The air space of the DRVN is inviolable



Countering the US war against dykes, this army helps in protection of beloved North Viet Nam — the great rear base of the nationwide Resistance

IN the struggle against the US imperialist aggressors the South Vietnamese people command the strength of the whole country. The Northern people who bear in mind President Ho Chi Minh's teachings have been wholeheartedly helping the Southern people and sharing weal and woe with them.

Right from the beginning of the resistance against the French colonialists' attempted come-back to our country, the North demonstrated its fraternal solidarity by sending troops to the South. Many staunch fighters among them have now become veterans of the present anti-US fight.

Members of the same family sympathize with one another. Unforgettable grivances and painful wounds inflicted by the enemy on the beloved Southern part of our country have been wringing the hearts of kindred North. The latter seethed with hatred when the US aggressors poisoned fellow countrymen of ours at Phu Loi, mass murdered others at Son My, Ba Lang An, Kong Ho Rinh, Con Dao (Con Son) and Phu Quoc etc... It is impossible to describe the deep compassion felt by the Northerners when their Southern kins were tradden down by the enemy.

In 1959 the Southern people rose up in simultaneous uprisings. The Northern people enthusiastically hailed them. When the SVN NFL came into being the North warmly greeted it. Since then, the South has been continually marching forward. The North seasoned in combat against the enemy, administered by a superior social regime in the making and enlightened by President Ho Chi Minh, the founding father of the republic, is endowed with an unusual stamina and fired by an unshakeable resolve to continue sharing Southerners' battle.

The North has responded to the appeal of the South. "Everyone is redoubling his efforts, fired by the watchword: "All for the South". The North of its free will has been acting as the "great rear" of the fighting South, doing its utmost to assist it, closely watching each of its steps and acclaiming every of its achievement. The cooperation of the Northerners has increased manyfold the punch of the Southerners. It is one of the main causes of the present extraordinary progress of the revolution in the South.

HAVING suffered heavy losses in the South, the US aggressors have resumed their air and naval war of destruction against the DRVN. That is part of the "limited war" strategy advocated by the Johnson administration against our people. Its military adventures were unable to halt the advance of the Southern revolution, to weaken our people's fighting will, to cut off the stream of supply from the North. Instead, the prestige of the US Air Force was damaged, all the Pentagon's tactics foiled and Johnson's "political demise" brought to pass. The South Vietnamese were very proud of the dramatic defeat by their Northern kindred of the first war of destruction of the US imperialist aggressors. It duly contributed to the resounding successes of the South Viet Nam army and people. It was a lesson of single-mindedness and a demonstration of the "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" spirit. It has increased the South Viet Nam army and people's force and encouraged them in their advance toward further gains.

Despite serious setbacks of "vietnamization", the Nixon clique has been treading in Johnson's footsteps, by resuming and intensifying the air and naval war of destruction against the DRVN to an unprecedented fury. This time they have thrown a formidable force: 1,300 tactical aircraft, over 200 B-52 strategic bombers and over 60 warships into frenzied attacks on the North with a view to undermining the DRVN military and economic potentials interdicting the flow of aid from our friends in the world to our people, and preventing the North from discharging its duty as the great rear vis-à-vis the great front.

They have simultaneously and massively attacked many localities, rapidly stepped up their strikes to an unheard-of intensity and fierceness. They have raided populated areas, economic structures, dykes and dams, cultural institutions, hospitals, schools, etc. They have purposely bombed flat a great number of towns such as Vinh, Nam Dinh, Hon Gay, Ninh Binh, Haiphong, Thanh Hoa, etc. To hit at dykes and dams is one of the US imperialists' deliberate plans. They intend to take advantage of the rainy season to wreck the system of dykes and cause floods, crop failures and famine so as to kill millions of people, emasculate the great rear of our people's fight, save Vietnamization from collapse and prolong their agent Nguyen Van Thieu and company's last days.

For all their brutality the Nixon clique will not achieve their aim. The North Viet Nam army and people burning with hatred and indignation have downed hundreds of US aircraft and thwarted the design of the Nixon clique. Thanks to the rich experience gained during the four years of resistance against Johnson's first war of destruction, the second ground-to-air war waged by the North Viet Nam army and people has been making great strides. Over the past four months nearly 300 US aircraft (including 9 B.52s) have been blasted to pieces and many US warships set on fire. The North Viet Nam army and people have been fighting with courage, resourcefulness and success. All arms and services have accomplished great exploits. Enemy aircraft have been brought down either in the day-time or at night, at high or low altitude, even when the attacks are launched massively or separately or stealthily. The Northern army and people's feats-of-arms have evidenced our Northern kin's capability of debunking the "supremacy myth of the US Air Force." We heartily congratulate them on their brilliant deeds. For the sake of the great front they have given full play to their revolutionary heroism, and given added lustre to our nation's tradition of undauntedness!

ANOTHER achievement of theirs has been to keep the traffic open against seemingly unsurmountable odds. Braving US fierce bombings and strafings the fighters of the transport and communication front in the North have been enduringly active, and due to their encourageous fighting and selfless labour the US blokade of sea-ports, bombing of bridges, roads, vehicles, trains and ships... in the North have not been able to stop the flow of manpower and materials to the frontline. We seize this occasion to announce from the great front to our kin Northern fellow countrymen and our friends in the five continents that we always receive regularly, timely and completely all necessary aid coming from the North and the world over. Through the aid which travels tens of thousands of miles under the snow, wind and sand, through mountains and forests, wide seas and deep rivers and arrives at various battlefields by all means, the army and people of the South realise clearly the dedication of fraternal North and the militant solidarity of our friends all over the world. The whole country and our friends in the five continents have been acting as logistic officers for South Viet Nam. The front promises to fight with even more determination until final victory. Nixon and his confederates have failed in their assaults on the communication lines, in their blockade of the sea-ports, in their attempts to sap the budding economy of the North and to weaken the South Viet Nam army and people's fighting capacity. We have thwarted their undertaking and we are sure to carry the day in the end.

Producing while fighting has become the exalting way of life of the Northerners. Once more they have promptly readjusted their economy and life to the war conditions. They have harvested a bumper winter crop despite US fierce bombings and strafings. Our feats-of-arms in the South cannot be dissociated from the successes of the fighters of the economic front in the North. We warmly applaud those who "holding a gun one hand and a plough in the other", or "holding a hammer in one hand and a gun in the other" have held in check the US aggressors in fields, plants, construction sites and have stinted themselves on food and clothing for us.

On all the war and production fronts the army and people of heroic North Viet Nam have distinguised themselves. Their achievements have been due to their singleness of purpose, contempt of sacrifices and hardships, and determination to fight till the end for the defence of the North, liberation of the South and eventual peaceful national reunification.

They have been vivid illustration of the "Nothing is more precious than Independence and Freedom," and "Everything for the kindred South, everything for complete victory over the US aggressors" spirit.

The North Viet Nam army and people have been bending "all their mind and energy" on the joint effort with their Southern counterparts to "safeguard independence and freedom." They have been developing to the utmost their revolutionary heroism, standing the gruelling trials of the war, and discharging their obligation as the great rear toward the great front.

With their all-round gains, they have been realizing the last wishes of President Ho Chi Minh; they have been steadily following the path he has charted.

The South Viet Nam army and people are very proud of the progress of their kindred North, the heroic half of the country which has twice successfully confronted the US air and naval war. The army and people of the South pledge themselves to be worthy of the great rear and of its solicitude and valuable help.

DESPITE their heavy failures the US imperialists remain crafty and obstinate. They are doing everything in their power to step up the extermination war against both North and South, to wipe out the fruits of the revolution in both zones, and to implement US neo-colonialism. It is their last ditch attempt. But neither blood and iron nor fire and sword can shake our entire people's resolve to fight on until the aggressors' complete defeat.

Our people who have been unceasingly fighting for 27 years for their independence and freedom, have learned vital lessons: if the country is conquered, the family is dispersed also and there can be no genuine peace unless there is independence and freedom. For that reason "we must go on fighting until there is not a single aggressor left in our country" as President Ho Chi Minh has said. We will never compromise nor yield even one inch of the land that our ancestors have preserved at the cost of their blood.

The South Viet Nam army and people are determined to fight until victory, for they are aware that their struggle against US aggression and for national salvation does not only aim at safeguarding our nation's free life and happiness, but also makes an important contribution to the common effort of the brotherly Lao and Cambodian peoples, to drive the US aggressors out of the Indochinese peninsula, and to the world peoples' movement for independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

THIS years, our people as a whole are celebrating the national day in a solid and strengthening posture. The South Viet Nam army and people send their beloved Northern kin the assurances of loyalty of the Brass Wall and of their gratitude and admiration for the North's signal contribution to the common cause. They pledge continued cooperation with the courageous North which has been dealing severe punishment to the US air and naval forces and further shattering offensives and uprisings, with an eye to ultimate triumph in the mission of liberating the South, defending the North and achieving peaceful national reunification.

*We think with immense grief of President Ho Chi Minh, the founder of the DRVN, who tirelessly educated and guided our nation, "lost apetite and sleep" because the South was still under foreign subjection, who showed great solicitude for the South Viet Nam revolution and inspired each step forward made by our army and people We have deeply engraved on our minds his supreme instruction: **"Our resistance may have to drag on longer. Our fellow-countrymen may have to make more sacrifices in life and resources. But we must completely defeat the US aggressors."***

Our army and people, true to the oath taken during the ceremony of the Proclamation of Independence, backed by the strength of the whole country and of our world's friends, are determined to make every sacrifice and endure every harship, persevere in our resistance and translate into reality President Ho Chi Minh's last wishes.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Tortoise Temple as it looked on the day the Hanoi armed forces and people brought down the 300th US war plane over the city

FEAT MARKING A HISTORIC DAY

IN these days of August, there prevailed a stirring atmosphere at all combat positions in Ha Bac, the home of undaunted De Tham (*), as the emulation drive was geared for exploits in honour of the 27th August Revolution Day.

Battalion 2, Unit N., had just started its political discussions aimed at giving officers and men a clear idea of the new situation and the new task and launching the emulation drive which received warm response from the military youth organization. Urgent meetings were held to draw experience from past battles and to work out plans for the future Right at this moment, the battalion was ordered to move at once to K. position on time and in full safety for both men and weaponry. The driver of the ammo truck, Nguyen Van Cu, joined his comrades in camouflaging the gun site although he had worked 3 straight hours the previous night, bringing in fresh supplies. Tran Van Long, a marker of flight routes, who had been on duty since April 16, also took part enthusiastically in the preparations. Signalman Nguyen Van Luc who had been on the sick list for 3 days insisted on resuming duty.

With the spirit of August 19 alive in everyone, all members of the radar station made their equipment ready for action and at the same time underwent hand training to realize the combat plan at K. position. The whole battalion was out to keep their hand in and the munitions were at hand on that historic day.

On the night of August 18, everything was shipshape. Political instructor Phuong and battalion commander Pham Van Chat, both having risen from the ranks, went about giving pep talk to their men; they were sure of success.

At 10.14, the unit was put on the alert again. A flight of enemy planes roared in. Having learned from the morning battle, officers and men of the radar station did not waste a moment. They succeeded in detecting the enemy from a greater distance. The team immediately sent signals back to the command car. Phuong and Chat made a rapid calculation and decided to get at the enemy flight in the Y direction. Every one concerned was prepared. The adverse planes were at X range when But pressed the button. A missile whizzed skyward. The enemy tried a dodge but it was too late. Well experienced fighters like Chien, Huong and others already closed in. As the first shot cut into the enemy formation, the second one set an F-4 ablaze. A parachute opened. The American pilot was captured as soon as he touched down.

The August 19 exploit brought joy to the whole 2nd battalion. It was the 32nd US plane downed by the unit and the 7th in celebration of Revolution Day and Independence Day this year.

(*) *An anti-French guerilla leader of the late 19th century.*

A patrol along the DRVN's coast

GENOCIDE & ECOCIDE

Ed — *The destruction of dykes and geophysical warfare carried out by the Pentagon are deliberate. These military measures are part and parcel of the US war of aggression, war of extermination against the people in both zones of Viet Nam.*

Confronted with world wide condemnation, Nixon and Co. on the one hand try to whitewash their crimes while on the other hand they intensify the systematic bombing of dykes in a bid to provoke flooding which would ruin the crops and kill millions of North Vietnamese.

Hereunder we reproduce a study by Bui Duc Lien of Tin Sang Hai Ngoai *in Paris, entitled "***Genocide and Ecocide,***" to inform our readers of the magnitude of the war crimes committed by the murderers in the Pentagon and the White House against our people.*

I — GEOPHYSICAL WARFARE BOMBING OF DYKES

THERE is now enough evidence to establish that the Pentagon wants to provoke in the coming weeks catastrophic floods in the Red River Delta.

Its plan comprises two phases which are complementary to, and support, one another:

— increase and prolongation of monsoon rains by artificial atmospheric precipitations in the Red River basin.

— systematic rocking of the Tonkin Delta dykes by air bombing, with a view to provoking breaches in dykes that might be attributed to "natural factors" in time of floods in the summer months.

C.I.A. as trailblazer

Various articles and documents published in the United States (1) have just revealed that the USAF had completed a decree aimed at increasing the volume, and prolonging the duration, of monsoon rains in Laos and North Viet Nam. A new "form of war" with unforeseeable consequences is under experiment in the Indochinese theatres of operations.

The attempt does not date back to yesterday. As early as 1963, the CIA already provoked storms in Hue area in an effort to break the violent Buddhist demonstration against the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorship. It had reportedly noticed that demonstrations could resist tear-grenades but had to disperse spontaneously, as if by reflex, in case of a storm. A Beech craft provoked precipitations by spraying on clouds silver iodure crystals. The same thing happened in Saigon in Summer 1964.

Sudden spates

This method was concurrently applied in the mountains in order to stop all traffic on the Ho Chi Minh trail with sudden spates. After a rather short period of trial as a result of pecular conditions in the forming of clouds in tropical climate, the experiments proved to be conclusive. Thus, by "mistake," US aircraft once dropped on a camp of their own Special forces 7 inches or 16cm of rain in two hours, which is approximately equal to one-third of annual average rainfall on Paris (55cm). This figure is to be kept in mind: it provides a connection between climatic alterations and the bombing of dykes in North Viet Nam.

A project that dares not say its name

The US Air Force soon got interested in this scheme that took on a systematic character since 1967. A document in the Pentagon Papers (which passed unnoticed) mentioned it among the seven basic options presented by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the White House in February 1967 as a further step in escalation: that was Operation Popeye aimed at "reducing the possibilities of traffic in the routes of infiltration" by causing perturbations in climatic conditions in Laos. A new target was soon added: "to try to impede the firing of AAC missiles at US jets coming to bomb the North Viet Nam panhandle close to the Laotian border."

Right at that time, a special squadron of C. 130 cargo planes was assigned this mission and purposely based at Udorn, Thailand. Eventually this will have its own importance. Each one of those aircraft could "sow" several sectors in the course of only one flight. The operation was wrapped in absolute secrecy and the aircraft were based in a basic sector that was strictly off-limits. In scientific circles and in President Nixon's staff alike, this undertaking met with resistance, even with formal opposition, which may be at the bottom of leakages to the press.

Worse than the bomb

Towards the end of 1971, this program which dares not say its name received three different code names (Popeye, Blue Nile, Intermediary Compatriot) to confuse any eventual inquirer, and was placed under the direct control of the White House. Even high officials of the establishment were kept in the dark. "This sort of thing is a bomb," declared one official to Seymour Hersh. Everything was taken over by Adviser Kissinger and "dear Henry" kept posted only a handful of people directly concerned.

This over-prudence is easily understandable. At a time when ecology becomes a major problem in all affluent countries that loot the third world to sink its raw materials in the proliferating of refuse of the consumer society for the benefit of the promoters of expansion — even though the planet may be led to a catastrophe — the White House is performing in Indochina a characterized and consciously organized ecocide. Scientific circles and public opinion should be kept in the ignorance of current experiments just to prevent a widespread outcry.

II — METEOROLOGICAL OR GEOPHYSICAL WARFARE

For about six years, the Pentagon has been conducting a vast program of research on meteorological (or in a wider sense, geophysical) warfare which seems to have gradually geared to its own ends the works of various specialized centres, as the new formula had proved to be at once terrific in its effects (a cyclone is equivalent to hundreds of H bombs), not costly in materials, and particularly easy to be camouflaged (natural calamities can always provide a way out).

Viet Nam: a testing ground

The State Department has thus created a world network of meteorological information (ARPA Network) and studied on computers the socio-economical effects of climatological factors (Project Illiac). It has been forced to classify as "secret" the information given by satellites, polar stations, networks of computers and centres of data reception and processing scattered all over the world: So much so that it is now difficult to make a difference between civil projects and military programs. If studies directly subsidized by the Pentagon are conducted by the California Naval Weapons Center, the Norfolk US Navy Weather Center Facility, the Rand Corporation, programs that may serve the same objectives are being carried out in institutions of a more classically universitary character such as the Monterey National Center of Research, the Miami Laboratory of Research on Cyclones, the Honolulu Institute of Geophysics, which in principle give themselves civilian objectives of a humanitarian character. All information and techniques enabling the unleashing of rains or drought, the provocation of hurricanes, tidal waves, even earthquakes or the melting of polar caps are of direct interest to this new strategy which turns man's control over natural phenomena into a "science of destruction" (one may as well say "destruction of science.") Researches were especially stepped up in the field of provoking artificial rains that have long since concerned scientists. After having been a (disappointing) testing ground for "special warfare," heliborne tactics and "electronic warfare," Indochina now serves as an experimental field for these new theories.

Objective: Floods

The Pentagon now indirectly recognizes that it is using in Indochina artificial rains for tactical purposes. By spraying with certain products clouds covering mountains in monsoon time, the air force provokes precipitations which in certain conditions (meeting of two clouds) may be thirty times superior to what they are in normal conditions.

This acknowledgement aims at concealing what is essential in the operation: its strategic character.

Officials interviewed by Seymour Hersh unofficially admit 5 objectives for the unleashing of artificial rains:

— "disturb SAM-guiding radars."

— "provide a cover of clouds and storms to South Vietnamese commandos and intelligence teams infiltrated into North Viet Nam."

— "serve as a deterrent to North Vietnamese attacks and raids in the South."

— "alter or re-shape the rain distribution in North Viet Nam and Laos to facilitate US bombing missions."

— "divert North Vietnamese troops and material from military operations by forcing them to exert all efforts to keep open mired communication lines."

These (undeniable) objectives are but secondary aspects of a much wider plan that must be kept secret: the (seemingly natural) breach of Red River dykes in time of spates in July and August. Already the State Department has been striving to give currency to the idea of inevitable floods in the Hanoi area. For "natural" reasons, of course.

We do not know why this plan — still so carefully shrouded in mystery — is codenamed "Blue Nile." The fact remains that Blue Nile presents a strange analogy with an affluent of the Red River: the Da River (known in France as the Black River). In both cases there is an affluent whose flow is so abundant in Summer that it may be regarded as the main river. Anyhow the exact meaning of that codename does not matter very much. A fact remains undeniable: the Black River commands more than 50% of the Red River's flow in time of spates (2). It is the most brutal element of the basin up-stream Hanoi. At 60 miles from the confluent at its rapids, the Black River is still at 150 feet whereas the Red River, at 90 miles from the confluent, is already at 105 feet.

Artificial rains

In 48 years, one recorded 34 swellings of this affluent (with a maximum flow of 32,500 m3/sec. or 14 for the higher section of the Red River (maximum flow at Yen Bay: 8,820 m3) and 22 for the Clear River.

Now US planes, which are recognized as provoking precipitations to hinder the action of Vietnamese A-A forces, operate, as one has seen, from Udorn, Thailand, and come up against A-A barrages above areas located for the most part in the Black River basin, or a little southwards, in the basin of the Ma, Chu and Lam Rivers all provided with dykes and running through the densely populated plains of Thanh Hoa and Nghe Tinh.

900 to a square kilometer

In the lower section of these three rivers, and in the Red River delta as well, the density of the population (which is essentially rural) is on an average 550 inhabitants to a square kilometer, with even bigger concentrations in certain provinces such as Nam Dinh: 675 by sq. km, or Thai Binh: 900 by sq. km (figures given by the Annuaire des Etats Associés in 1953, when the population was by far inferior to the present figures).

In the monsoon months, the Red River may have a flow of 32,500 m3/ sec. at the entrance of the Delta. in Son Tay province. The water level in Hanoi may then be up to 42 feet (7 feet only in winter, when water is at its lowest level) whereas some city precincts are only at level 3 and the "highest" spots at level 7.

The river then carries its water at a speed of 2-3 yards/ sec. on 190 miles between dykes that overhang from 2 to 8 yards (sometimes 17 yards as is the case with the Viet Tri area) a plain with over 10 million inhabitants. Its flow is then higher than that of the Yellow River in China by 10,000 m3/sec. Yellow River's dyke breach caused in 1,938,900,000 dead and 6 million other victims.

Three factors

In all the three summer months, the danger is permanent in the whole delta. Water is always above land level and may attain an alert level several times. The volume of precipitations is an additional factor aggravating the situation, as rain water cannot flow into the river which is now at a higher level. Typhoons provoked in this season present an additional risk, and storms hit littoral dykes protecting the last rice "squares" gained from the sea. The danger of breaches in this sector is in a certain sense more serious than in zones lower than the river and its affluents, since those brackish waters hitting cultivation in case of breaches considerably impoverish the soils that must be drained before one can sow again.

The US meteorological war plan aims at turning to account these 3 unfavourable climatic factors: the thrust of spates, volume of precipitations on the delta and typhoons, to sap the very basis of the ecological system created by the Vietnamese in the delta for two millenaries.

(To be continued)

BUI DUC LIEN

Notes.—

(1) In particular a study published in the June 16 issue. of the US magazine Science and an article by Seymour Hersh, author of a book on the Son My (My Lai) massacre in the July 3 issue of the New York Times. We owe these sources many elements of "classified" military information. In France, Alain Jaubert's, article in Le Nouvel Observateur of June 26 and Dominique Vergnèse's article in Le Monde of July 5.

(2) Normandin who was Director of Water Conservancy Works in Indochina in the colonial epoch had worked out the following formula for the calculation of water rise in Hanoi;

M = 0.5m1 ; 0.04m2 ; 0.45m3

M = water rise in 24 hours.

m1 = water rise at Yen Bay (Red River) 36 hours earlier.

m2 = water rise at Tuyen Quang (Clear River) 36 hours earlier.

m3 = water rise at Hoa Binh (Black River) 24 hours earlier.

(P. Gourou: Le Tonkin, p. 70)

Here and there...

Caligula

Of all men of the day, Nixon is certainly the most discussed. A flesh and blood being, who has nothing of a sphinx or of a fabulous creature about him, he evinces however in his personality sibyline features which make him an enigma every one can decipher in his own way.

Some one has had the idea of comparing him to Caligula, whose motto he has apparently made his own: «Let them hate me but let them fear me».

Oderint dum metuant Nixon suppresses the American people's claims for a better living standard and peace. He manhandles blacks, massacres students, slights the intelligentsia, stands for craftiness, deception, and use of men as food for powder.

Oderint dum metual! Nixon dreams of world hegemony, pokes his nose everywhere, sows discord, foments quarrels, perpetrates crimes that "make stones cry out". One cannot exhaust the list of his misdeeds.

Very well. But is he feared? Certainly not by the Morissons, the Angela Davises, the Nguyen Thai Binhs, the Jane Fondas, to cite only a few names. Nor by the Vietnamese, nor by their Lao and Cambodian brothers, who have been hitting back so devastatingly.

True, the US is not ancient Rome and Viet Nam has throughout its multi-millenary history, rebuffed many an aggressor, far more crafty, and cruel than Nixon.

So if Nixon has taken a leaf from Caligula's book, it is his incredible folly which at most can be a laughing stock but not a source of fear.

Hitler

The delightful Jane Fonda dubs him a Hitler! The simile is certainly better, in the sense that historically speaking Hitler is better known, being nearer to us than the Roman dictator. Consequently, the atrocities of the Nazi Chancellor are still fresh in every mind. Particularly because they have left indelebile marks on their sites, worse still, in the hearts of his victims, direct or indirect, who have survived him here and there in the world,

But whether likened to Caligula or to Hitler, Nixon undoubtedly surpasses them both. Caligula only had the whim or the foolishness to wish that all the Romans had only one head so that he could behead the whole lot of them with one blow. Nixon, advantaged by means of destruction unpossessed by Tiberius's successor, has not had to make any wish or dream and has set to a genocide of not only one but several Indochinese peoples. Hitler was held responsible for the V 1's and V 2's, concentration camps, crematories, Coventry's erasement, Oradour and Lydice. Nixon has become notorious for his lavish use of B52's, "smart" bombs and other engines of death, the ones more lethal than the others for his invention of concentration zones, "rabbit cages" "tiger cages," institutions and methods even more ferocious, and for his destruction of more than a dozen cities and urban centres of Viet Nam and for not two or three but hundreds of mass-slaughters of the My Lai, Ba Lang An etc... type.

As a Vietnamese saying puts it, juniors and descendants are always more gifted than their seniors and ancestors.

Peer Gynt

Better still, Nixon outwits his historical predecessors by abilities which so far humanity has endowed products of its imagination with.

First an unusual ease and skill in telling lies, in falsifying facts, in making white black, in conceiving fantastic stories, in distorting eternal truths and in silencing even the rustle of the reeds over his donkey's ears. Doesn't he try to make the world believe that there are two Viet Nams one of which is the aggressor of the other, that the Vietnamese who have, in no way, disturbed the Americans living 12,000 miles away, are jeopardizing the security of the latter and so on and so forth. One knows of no equal to Mr Nixon in terms of inventive facility and fecundity but in the person of Peer Gynt of whom the incumbent US. President seems to be a distinguished disciple with the exception for his candidness. May Ibsen forgive this parallel which he did surely not fancy when fathering Peer Gynt.

Tartuffe

In hypocrisy and false piety, Mr Nixon is by far superior to Tartuffe. Called "murderer" and "assassin" by his own fellow Americans, he excels in playing the monk, always ready to pray to God for peace (what an unfortunate time when words lose their true meaning!). Wasn't he a past master in the art of pretence when he wore the benign face of a fond rather and shed a few crocodile tears speaking of a Tania from Leningrad, martyrized by Hitler, while at the very moment and on previous and following days he had had thousands of little boys and girls massacred in Indo-China.

Tantalus

The incommensurateness of Mr Nixon's greed inevitably reminds one of Tantalus's — to refer only to Indo-China and say nothing of his world ambitions. There is no lack of evidence and one of the most glaring proofs is his invasion of Cambodia. But there like in Laos and Viet Nam, the gradual regression of his client armies has been shrinking the parchment of his dream of conquest. From time to time, fruitless attempts to recover "lost territories" like the Plain of Jars, Kompong Trabek or Quang Tri are not less excruciating than the Phrygian king's torments.

An Orgre

Not even children have been taken in by his pi-jaw and insincere tears. There have erupted here and there in the world children's protest actions against his infanticides in Viet Nam. It is assumed that among themselves, when telling one another the tales of his horrors, they always begin with the same words as in Perrault's: "Once upon a time there was an ogre..."

There is no end to the list of historical personages the ones as infamous as the others, to whom Mr Nixon can be a match. But there is one thing everyone can easily agree on, and it does not require an Oedipus to give the key of the riddle. That is that he is the most perfect symbol human imagination can ever conceive of all that is a shame not only to the American nation but also to mankind in its entirety.

HUONG NAM

August 1972

Mounting anti-Nixon opposition in the US

LAST month was marked in the United States by a wave of opposition to Nixon's war of aggression in Viet Nam. Demonstration broke out in Wilmington (Ohio), Saint Louis (Missouri), Bangor (Washington), New York... In Miami (Florida) in particular, a series of violent actions took place all through the preparation and holding of the Republican Convention.

Miami indeed became the centre of demonstrations against the Viet Nam war. From all parts of America, — San Francisco, New York, Boston, Champaign — Urbana (Illinois), delegations of the American people flocked in to voice their anger against the policy applied in Indochina by the administration headed by Nixon, representative of the Republican Party. On their way there, they were cheered by sympathetic local people.

David Dellinger, one of the leaders of the protest declared: Our objection is to make clear to the public that the nomination of a war criminal (Nixon) as presidential candidate should not be let pass as normal. Another participant in the drive — actresss Jane Fonda, just back from North Viet Nam — once again condemned US atrocious bombing of the DRVN. This is a tragedy for the US she said, this is our tragedy. We are parading against this killing; we are parading against the crimes they (the Nixon admistration) have committed in our own name.

On August 18, hundreds of demonsrators took to the streeets chanting "Stop bombing the dykes", "Stop the war (of aggression against Viet Nam) now". They broke through the cordons of policemen, rushed into the hotel where the Republican Party's Political Program Drafting Committee war working — and urged its members to listen to the claim of the popular masses for an immediate end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina.

To deal with the mounting anti-war movement, the US reactionary ruling circles mustered 5,500 civic guards and regular troops including paratroops from Aircav Division 82 and marines to reinforce the local police. Moreover, another 2,500 paras and marines stationed in nearby military bases were put on the alert. The site of the Republican convention was reported by Reuter to eventually become an army stronghold.

However, in defiance of repression and terror, in defiance of armed helicopters circling above Miami in an effort to intimidate the dissenters, immediately after the announcement of the Republican Party Platform on August 19, — in which no significant change could be recorded in Nixon's policy regarding a Viet Nam settlement — the protest went on unabated for several days and nights on ends. Thousands of peoples including Republicans calling themselves "unrepresented" (at the Miami Convention) payty members staged uninterrupted marches in the streets, impeding all traffic. The Convention hall and dwelling places of Republican Party bosses were picketed. Most impressive was the scene of Viet Nam war veterans and invalids on their crutches or in their wheel chairs, clad in washed-out green uniforms.

The demonstrators tore off and burned many American flags and Nixon's effigies as well as the banner of the Republican Party to express their strong opposition to Nixon's and the Party's reactionary home and foreign policy and to the dirty war obstinately prosecuted by the Nixon clique in Viet Nam and which only stained the fame of America. They shouted, "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh! N.F.L. will win! Nixon murderer!" They bore masks of Nixon painted either in red or in white and wore long black robes to perform a play castigating Nixon's monstrous crimes. They hurled addle eggs, spat and threw stones at vehicles, set them afire, broke window panes, insulted pro-Nixon delegates and prevented their cars from reaching the meeting hall. Although the place was surrounded by rows of policemen who literally cordoned it off, most doors remained closed. Though 1,200 demonstrators have been arrested, four veterans broke into the meeting hall as Nixon was selling his "achievements" in his acceptance speech. They shouted: "Stop bombing!", "Stop the war!".

In political circles, anti-Nixon feeling was running high and spreading. Many Congressmen including Republicans and well-known figures, such as Ed. Kennedy, M. Mansfield, Paul Mc Closkey, Donald Riegle, Philip Jessup, E. Gross, Edward Koch... flayed the war and Nixon's continued support for the rotten client Saigon administration. The truth as seen in Viet Nam and revealed by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, just back from North Viet Nam, caused utter embarrassment to the Nixon group. Demands were raised for the prosecution of Ramsey Clark but there is no doubt such a manœuvre will also fail as with Jane Fonda.

Senator McGovern, Democratic Presidential candidate, denounced that Nixon had been sending Kissinger about like a pawn on a chessboard just to make people believe the Administration was looking for peace in earnest; but actually Nixon was delaying the negotiation and trying to re-vivify the Thieu regime. Senator McGovern said: We will never send American youths to the defence of a rotten dictator half-the-globe away. He also pointed out that the stepped-up bombing since Nixon became President is the greatest deception ever performed on the American people; Nixon was intentionally deceiving the Americans as to both the objectives and results of the bombing. There is no reason to trust that a President who had not been able to achieve peace in 4 years could do so in 8, the South Dakotan Senator added.

If there is anybody who has deceived the American people, said Republican Congressman Donald Riegle, he is Nixon. Representative Ed. Koch quoted from the news to show that in the last few months the Saigon administration had jailed 15,000 people including women and children; by supporting the South Viet Nam (Saigon) regime, he said, our administration was encouraging the continuation of such brutalities; we have lost tens of thousands of Americans and roasted some hundreds billion dollars not to defend freedom but the Thieu regime. Senator W. Proxmire angrily condemned the savage bombing in Viet Nam which, he said, was the most ignominious chapter of American history. S. Shriver, McGovern's running mate, denounced that Nixon had missed an opportunity to end the Viet Nam war in 1969 when conditions were favourable for a peaceful settlement; instead Nixon was obstinately prolonging the fighting and sticking to Nguyen Van Thieu. This accusation was supported by other personalities of American political circles including Harriman, former head of the US delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam; Vance, former Defence Under-Secretary; W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee P. Warnke, former Defence Assistant Secretary.

Scientists of the Cornell University published a book entitled "The Air War in Indochina" in which they stigmatized the war crimes committed by the US imperialists against the Indochinese peoples, and affirmed that the US air war in Indochina was primarily aimed at the civilians.

THE anti-war movement rapidly spread to the US armed forces and beyond US borders. At Yokosuka (Japan), marines on board the aircraft carrier Oriskany demonstrated against the war, went on a hunger strike and left the ship. American children living in Cuba issued a communiqué saying: As American children, we denounce the acts of aggression perpetrated by the American government in Viet Nam. We pledge to the Vietnamese people and children that we shall do everything to stop the war.

The Nixon administration is now like a crippled man because of the anti-war movement. Nevertheless Nixon is still standing to his guns over a solution to the Viet Nam problem, as testified by his speech on Augnst 23 in Miami.

He is gliding headlong into an abyss.

DAI LIEN

American students demonstrate against Nixon in Miami

THE THIRD WORLD IN EFFERVESCENCE

Thailand:

In the first half of 1972, the Thai patriotic armed forces put out of action 2,266 enemy troops, downed or destroyed 67 aircraft of various kinds, wrecked 65 armoured cars and razed to the ground 30 military posts.

In April, 3 "mop-ups" conducted by tens of thousands of Bangkok soldiers, police agents and civil guards in Phitsanuloke, Loei and Pletehabun provinces were foiled with 820 casualties, 40 aircraft knocked down or damaged and 10 military vehicles blasted to pieces.

In the May 23 counter-raid alone, the patriotic forces in Bua district, Nan province, wiped out 81 enemy and one military vehicle.

o The Philippines:

On June 12, an anti-US demonstration was staged by over 6,000 students in front of the US Embassy in Manila to denounce the "Philippines' faked independence" The dissenters issued a resolution calling on the people to thwart the US imperialists' design to perpetuate the domination over the country.

o Malaysia:

On June 16, the people's liberation forces ambushed a convoy of police armoured cars in Kedas. After 10 minutes' fighting, all the men aboard the vehicles including two officers were knocked out. The soldiers coming to their rescue also fell into an ambush and suffered many casualties. Those activities were mounted by the Malaysian patriots to honour the 24th anniversary of the national liberation war against the British imperialists (June 20).

o Mozambique:

From March to May 1972, the patriotic armed forces repeatedly assaulted Portuguese troops in several places, especially in Tete province, killing or wounding 280 of them, bringing down 2 aircraft, sinking 3 P.T. boats and destroying 30 military vehicles and two engines. 4 adverse officers were killed in one of the planes downed on March 15 over Mocumbura area.

o Guinea (Bissau):

In May, together with raids on Farun and Catio cities, 35 other assaults were mounted, and 22 ambushes laid by the patriotic forces in several parts of the country, taking a toll of 117 Portuguese soldiers and 12 military vehicles.

Recently, the Secretary General of the Guinea and Cape Verde African Independence Party aunounced that the people's armed struggle has been widespread in Guinea (Bissau). All cities held by the Portuguese colonialists including Bissau and Baphata, the second largest city of the country came under fire.

NIXON, war-war and war-war

NIXON has just thrown more light on his hawkish nature before the people of America and the rest of the world. With his renomination as presidential candidate and with the adoption of its election platform, the Republican Party for its part, has further revealed its ugly feature as a political party of US conservative monopoly capitalism.

What does the Republican election platform say about Viet Nam? As predicted, it duplicates the obstinate, aggressive and warlike position of President Nixon as expounded in his January 25 and May 8 speeches. It also endorsed as principles the tricks employed by Nixon in the previous as well as in the current presidential race. As the Western press has put it, the Republican platform faithfully echoes the White House and was worked out under the latter's supervision. It is clear that the Republican platform is one for war, for the continuation of "Vietnamization."

In his acceptance speech, Nixon bragged about the "progress" made towards an end of the Viet Nam war, and his search for a negotiated peace. He talked tough, raising the three things "we have not done and will not do":

"We will never abandon our POWs.

"We will not join our enemies in imposing a communist government on our allies, the 17,000,000 people of South Viet Nam.

"We will not stain the honour of the US."

An expert in the art of deception, 4 years ago candidate Nixon promised to end the war within 6 months to catch votes. 4 years after his inauguration, the war is still going on, and more fiercely at that. Nixon must be worrying about the mounting anti-war movement at home. As a matter of course, this time he has to change tactics, trying to play upon the prevailing sentiment of compassion for the POWs and of great nation chauvinism. He has mentioned the POW issue, America's honour and the anti-Communist spirit. This really is vicious electioneering.

In the first place, it is Nixon and nobody else that has sought to impose a political regime on South Viet Nam. He is still setting his face against the formation of a tripartite government of national concord. By claiming that such a course of action boils down to imposing a Communist regime on South Viet Nam, Nixon has betrayed his infamous intent to keep Thieu in power and maintain a neo-colonialist rule in South Viet Nam.

As far as the POWs are concerned, who is letting down these unfortunate militarymen? Nixon is. He himself has originated such an issue and has not shown the least concern about its settlement. More locks have been put on the doors of the POWs camps and more American armymen have been thrown into them, simply because of Nixon's obstinacy and bellicosity.

How could he say he would not abandon the POWs when he was stepping up the Viet Nam war with a formidable deployment of US air and sea power. As to America's honour, who has stained the American nation's freedom-loving tradition, who has betrayed the spirit of the US Constitution of 1779? American actress Jane Fonda has called Nixon a traitor while Senator McGovern has termed him war-maker No. One in our time. None has smeared the image of the US than Nixon has.

Who does Nixon want to put the blame on? The Republican platform and Nixon's statement contain many contradictions. Nixon's three "nays" can never be achieved so long as his Party and its presidential candidate still stick to the 8 points advanced by the White House leader in his May 8 speech. Without a change of policy, Nixon and the GOP will continue sending up the number of POWs, keeping in office a US-imposed political regime, and staining America's honour.

The three "nays" proclaimed by Nixon at the GOP National Convention is to be merely another empty promise.

WITH the platform passed at Miami Beach, the Republican Party and its presidential nominee are in fact carrying on their war against the Vietnamese. The latter, however, are fully prepared. For the independence and freedom of their fatherland, they have been confronting US imperialist aggression for a quarter-century now. They have ample resolve and strength to combat aggression not only for another 4 years in the event Nixon is reelected but longer still, for one or more generations to come, until they regain their independence and freedom. But there is a rub. Will the anti-war movement in the States remain idle and let Nixon pull the wool over the eyes of the American voters once again, through cunning tricks, so as to drag on the war and make US monopoly capitalist richer? The angry outbursts outside the convention hall with slogans demanding an end to the war and eviction of Nixon from the White House were a clear enough writing on the wall.

It did not come singly but was the continuation of a movement that had gained ever bigger momentum throughout Nixon's term of office. It was at the same time the beginning of a campaign against the obstinate and aggressive stance of the Republican Party and Nixon, as the presidential contenders were bracing themselves up.

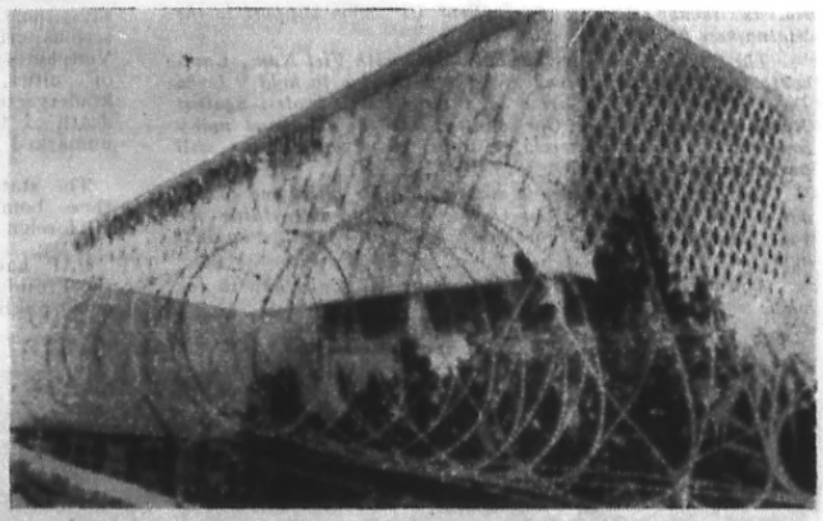
The American people are at a turning point. For the first time in a presidential race, before them are 2 rival election platforms with many differences on many issues. The Democratic platform with the McGovern-Shriver ticket calls for an end to the Viet Nam war by bringing every American serviceman home within 90 days without any pre-condition, for an immediate cessation of all US bombardment in Indochina without any pre-condition and opposes the extension of war to Laos and Cambodia. It is strongly critical of Nixon's "Vietnamization" and urges an immediate halt to all military aid to the Nguyen Van Thieu regime, without any pre-condition. It makes it clear that the US will not seek to decide the political future of the countries of Indochina any more. Furthermore, McGovern proposes a 30-billion dollar cut in military spending and the allocation of the money saved to the expansion of industry, to the building and strengthening of the position of the dollar and to the restoration of the US competitive power on the market of the capitalist world.

In short, the Democratic Party wants to seek another way to recover the US lost position because it believes that in many years to come, the US will be free from attack and so it is largely sufficient to spend a world's record of 50 billion dollars on defence. The policies of the Democratic Party represented by the McGovern-Shriver ticket worry the military-industrial complex represented by the Nixon-Laird tandem.

WHICH course will America be taking? Millions of American voters will make the final choice. Before them two roads have been opened, one by Nixon which would lead to decline, and the other by McGovern which would lead to prosperity. In the coming months, with full powers in his hands and with all his trickery, Nixon will not sit with folded arms to leave the American voters to seal his fate and that of the monopoly capitalist grouping represented by him.

The onward march of the US people is beset with difficulties. But the Americans of 1972 are quite different from those of 1968. They are acting to give more weight to their ballots as their nation's destiny is at stake.

THIEN LY



* *To cope with anti-war demonstrators, Nixon and Co. order a chain-link fence built to encircle the entire center where the Republican National Convention is held*

* *Viet Vets demonstrate outside Convention Hall, demanding eviction of Nixon from the White House*

"DYKE DAY"

Don't let us waste a single minute!

(Appeal of the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos)

"A crime without a parallel in mankind's history against a small and heroic country defending its freedom and independence is likely to occur: destruction of the dyke system of the DRVN, a crime incomparable with even the dropping of atomic bombs.

Mankind should realize in time what Richard Nixon is planning to do and militate for a halt to his move.

The systems of dykes in Viet Nam have been built during the past 2,000 years. They have a length of over 3,000 kilometres. Their existence protects the people and permits land cultivation in Viet Nam. Nixon is threatening the lives of 15 million people, two-thirds of whom are children and women.

Not a single minute is to be wasted, for a minute is long enough to destroy a portion of dyke. Dykes have been erected throughout centuries of indefatigable and industrious labour.

So far American aircraft have destroyed 80 dyke portions, and this has happened at a time when the rainy season is at its height. Hanoi, Haiphong and all the other cities of the DRVN and thousands of villages may be swept away by the water.

While in South Viet Nam the glorious patriots are liberating their land from the aggressors and their flunkeys, in North Viet Nam the people are fighting against the danger of floods.

Nixon, who deserves to be compared with Hitler, is more hypocritical, demagogic and obdurate than the latter. He is putting science and technology at the service of barbarity and is perfidiously preparing for deliberate new crimes. It is the duty of every nation to intensify denunciation of the imperialists' savage crimes and reaffirm its warm support to the Vietnamese people.

The Cuban Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos warmly endorses the initiative to hold "Dyke Day" (August 28), a drive of international protest against Nixon's fresh atrocities. Our country, like the USA and many countries of Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa will participate in that day.

On August 28, in Havana and in all other cities and towns, our people will re-assert our C-in-C's words: Everything for Viet Nam now battling for the sake of all mankind against aggressive imperialism.

Don't let us waste a single minute! In Cuba and in the whole world, let us campaign for Dyke Day."

in the world

ACCORDING to the Moscow-based correspondent of VNA, in response to the International Day of Protest against the US bombing of dykes in Viet Nam, on August 27, the Soviet Support—Viet Nam Committee issued a statement saying:

"It is the duty of all men of conscience in the world to raise their voice against these criminal acts of the aggressors and stop their crimes.

The Soviet Committee in Support of Viet Nam declares that the Soviet people wholeheartedly support the just struggle of the brotherly Vietnamese people and that they will continue to denounce the crimes committed by the US aggressors in Viet Nam and actively contribute to broadening and strengthening the world front of solidarity with the Vietnamese people who are fighting against US aggression and for national salvation.

ADN reports that GDR workers have adopted more than 5,000 resolutions protesting against the monstrous crimes of the US aggressors and demanding that the latter immediately end their war of aggression in Viet Nam and the bombing of dykes and hydraulic works in the DRVN.

According to BTA, in a statement made public on August 26, the Bulgarian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity resolutely condemned the aggressive acts of the Americans on the territory of Viet Nam.

While they talk of peace, the statement says, the US imperialists continue to commit serious crimes against the heroic, peaceful Vietnamese people. The continued bombings of cities, villages, hospitals, schools, kindergartens and dykes which cause the death of thousands of innocent people, have unmasked the hypocrisy of imperialism.

The statement demands the cessation of these bombardments and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Viet Nam.

PAP has announced that on August 27, the President of the Polish Peace Committee made public a statement condemning the US bombing of dykes and hydraulic works, and cities and population centres in the DRVN, especially Hanoi and Haiphong.

On behalf of the entire Polish people, the statement says, we express our total solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people. We unreservedly support the judicious peace proposals advanced on many occasions by the government of the DRVN and PRG of the RSVN at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. We demand that the US end all hostile acts against the people of the Indochina peninsula, withdraw all its troops from Viet Nam, remove all its military bases there, and stop backing the rotten and anti-national regime of Nguyen Van Thieu.

The GPA correspondent in Oslo has reported that on August 23, the Norwegian Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam and the "Viet Nam Movement" of Norway issued a joint communiqué, condemning the US bombing of dykes and hydraulic works and demanding that the US end these acts of genocide, negotiate seriously on the basis of the 7 points of the PRG of the RSVN and pull all its troops out of Indochina.

On August 25, the Luxemburg—Viet Nam Committee addressed an open letter to Nixon, strongly denouncing the bombing of dykes and other hydraulic works in the DRVN. According to *AFP*, 2,500 Swiss personalities launched August 25 an appeal against the bombing of dykes in North Viet Nam by the US air force.

The signers to the appeal urged the American people to demand that their government cease these criminal bombings.

At a press conference held the same day in Berne by the "Viet Nam Emergency" Committee, Paris university prof. Yves Lacoste, a member of the International Commission of Inquiries into US crimes in Viet Nam back from a visit to North Viet Nam, pointed out that these bombardments run the risk of costing, in time of flooding, the lives of nearly 2 million persons inhabiting the Southern part of the Red River Delta.

Huge demonstration in Havana against the US aggression in Viet Nam on the occasion of the visit by the RSVN PRG delegation to Cuba

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION